

Churches pt. 4 (F)

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STATESBORO NEWS. January 24, 1902

METHODIST CHURCH

A movement is now on foot by the members of the Methodist Church to start the work of erecting a ~~new church~~ handsome new brick church on the site of their present church building on South Main T. We are informed that the building will cost when completed about \$10,000.

Statesboro
-
church -
Monday

MARCH 7, 1902

STATESEORO NEWS

Friday

NEW METHODIST CHURCH

The members of the Methodist church held a business meeting on last MOnday night and perfected arrangements to start work on the new brick church. Plans are before the committee for a building whi h will cost about \$8,000. Thw folloqing gentlemen were appointed on the building committee: G.S. Johnston, J.A. Fulcher, Dr. M.M. Holland, R.E. Cutland, E.C. Oliver, E.L. Smith and B.E. Turner.

Stetson

2

Friday, April 11, 1902

PICTURE OF THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

The plans call for an auditorium 54 by 54 feet... and inclined floor and seats conforming to a circle, the pulpit being in the southeast corner of the building; the arrangement will be such that the entire congregation can all see the speakers so necessary to good hearing. The position of the choir will be directly back of the pulpit on a dais raised about a foot above the rostrum. The main auditorium will with the gallery seat about 575 and with the folding partition, which cuts off the Sunday School room, raised, will give as a seating capacity of about 750. There will be in addition to the regular Sunday School room and opening out from it, eight individual class rooms which will enable the teachers to have the undivided attention of their classes. There will also be a pastor's study, a library and other modern conveniences.

The building outside and inside, will be one of which any congregation might well be proud and should entreat all to contribute even to the extent of their ability to the early completion of the house.

The building, ready for service will cost in the neighborhood of \$7,000, and a desire for the material interests of the town aside from any pride in religious affairs should induce all to desire a hand in helping to beautify our town. We wish them abundant success.

(Rev. Langston was pastor at that time.)

METHODIST CHURCH

FOR SALE

Nexxt Thursday, October 16, at 11 o'clock I will sell the Methodist Church of Statsboro. The church and seats will be sold separatel. The party who buys the building must agree to move it within ten days. Sale to take place in front of the church. ---M.M. HOLLAND, Chairman building oommittee.

CHURCH SOLD

The old methodist church was sold yesterda at public outcry to J.L. Olliff ~~damx~~ for \$126.00. Mr. Olliff is under contract to move the church building in 10 days as the work on the new structure is to be started right away. The contractors havd already begun to lay the mateiral on the ground. The seats were sold by private sale to the Hall Baptist Church, colored for \$55. So \$181. was the net cost of the building and seats.

STATSBORO NEWS, Friday, October 17, 1902

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

The building committee of the Methodist Church, on Monday awarded the contract of the building of the handsome new brick church to Messrs A.J. Franklin and Lee Roy Blackburn. The contract price was \$6,000 and work will be started the first of November. During the construction of the building the congregation will probably use the lower floor of the Masonic Building Hall. The new building is a pretty one and when completed will be an ornament to the town.

copy
- Statboro

STATSBORO NEWS, Friday, Nov. 7, 1902

METHODIST CHURCH

The first brick were laid for the new Methodist Church yesterday afternoon. Dr. Holland had the honor of laying the first brick.

copy of
Statsboro

62. ~~Atkinson~~

At a meeting of the lady members of the Methodist Church one day last week, ~~xx~~ \$600 was pledged by about 30 ladies to the fund which will be used for the furnishing of the new church building. It is hoped that at least \$1,200 can be raised for this purpose.

STATESBORO NEWS, Friday, Nov. 21, 1902

METHODIST CHURCH

On next Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock, Thanksgiving Day, the corner stone of the new Methodist Church will be laid.

The usual ceremony will be gone through with, and the address will be delivered by Rev. J.M. Lovett, presiding elder of the Dublin District. A large crowd is expected to attend.

STATSBORO NEWS

Friday, March 13, 1903

METHODIST CHURCH

The brick work on the Methodist church is about completed. The tower on the upper corner of the building is now something like 60 feet high.

METHODIST CHURCH

On Friday afternoon, the handsome brick building of the Methodist Church was completed and accepted by the building committee. Contractor A.J. Franklin has put up a fine building and the committee was well pleased with it. It is said that during the progress of the building, which has extended over a period of about seven months, there has not been the slightest jar or friction between the committee and the contractor.

While Mr. Franklin has lost about \$500 besides his time, ~~xxx~~ yet he went ahead and gave those people a substantial and honest job. Appreciating this the committee expressed their intention of seeing that all Mr. Franklin's losses on the building should be paid to him.

The church when furnished will cost about \$9,000. The large organ which was furnished by L.G. Lucas, of the Ludden and Bates Music House has arrived and has been placed into the church, but has not been unpacked as yet. The ~~xxxx~~ pews have not arrived yet, they are looked for within the next few days. They will cost \$1,250. and the organ cost \$150. An agreement has been made that the \$250 organ shall be taken, and the full purchase price applied to a large pipe organ when the church sees fit to put one in. It is expected that the church will be brought into service either next Sunday or Sunday week. The members of the church as well as the people of the town are justly proud of this handsome structure; it is a credit not only to the Methodist Church but to the entire community. It is the best church building between Macon and Savannah.

STATESBORO NEWS, Tuesday, Aug. 18, 1903

METHODIST CHURCH

At the 11 o'clock services at the Methodist Church on Sunday \$150 was raised to pay for the handsome pipe organ. The company took the old one at \$50 and Mr. Lucas donated \$50. It is a \$250 instrument and was sold by Mr. L.G. Lucas as the representative of Ludden & Bates.

STATESBORO NEWS FAIR EDITION
Oct. 16, 1903

Metter Methodist Mission

This mission was established by the South Georgia Annual Conference of the M.E. Church South at the session in December 1902. It covers all of that section between the towns of Statesboro and Stillmore contiguous to the B & P division of the Central of Ga. Ry. Rev. John P. Bross was made pastor and began his work the third Sunday in January of this year, since that time he has organized four churches - one at Belfast, known as "Langston's Chapel" - one at Trinity (reorganized) - one at Metter and one at Excelsior, with an aggregate membership of 75. One meeting house (Langston's chapel) is nearly complete. Another will be built at Metter in the near future. The Methodists have laid hold on this section in their usual aggressive manner and this bids fair to become one of the finest circuits in South Georgia. The people throughout the bounds of this mission are as intelligent, industrious, liberal, reasonable and hospitable as can be found in the South, and will make room for this great church which has done so much for humanity.

Methodism was an utter stranger to most of the people in this territory until this year, but they are becoming acquainted and that they like it after they know, is attested to by the number who are uniting themselves with the church.

look many (statesboro)
Churches -
First of the Methodists

STATESBORO NEWS, Tuesday, Oct. 27, 1903

METHODIST CHURCH DEDICATION

On next Sunday morning the new Methodist church in Statesboro will be formally dedicated to the worship of God. The people have been liberal and the church will be dedicated without a dollar of indebtedness; of which we are devoutly thankful.

About a year ago we started and now we have a house of worship of which any congregation might feel proud and it has been built without fuss or friction, but those to whom the work was entrusted realize that the way to do a thing was to do it and so they laid their plans wisely and executed them energetically and we are able now to crown our labors with this last--a formal dedication service.

Whitley Pastor.

STATESBORO NEWS, Friday, Nov. 6, 1903

DEDICATION OF NEW METHODIST CHURCH

On Sunday one of the largest congregations ever seen at a church service in Statesboro was gathered at the Methodist Church when the new house of worship was dedicated.

Dr. W.C. Lovett of Macon, editor of the Wesleyan Christian Advocate, delivered the dedication sermon.

B.B. ~~Sheff~~ Reppard of Savannah was also here and took part in the ceremonies. Dr. M.M. Holland formally delivered the church over to Dr. Lovett. Dr. Holland was the chairman of the building committee. He delivered a short speech when he made the presentation of the church.







Methodist Deacons

1907-1909

First Row Sam Williams, J.E. McCron, Rev. Paul Ellis, George Johnston, — Parker, — Lester
 Second Row Charlie Garner, Fred Lanier, Hinton Booth, Charles E. Cox, L.L. Glisson, W.T. Hughes

FOR MISS MOORE. 8-7-92

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist church gave a social Monday afternoon for Miss Sadie Maude Moore, who goes as a missionary to Korea from this church. At the end of an interesting program, Mrs. W. O. Shuptrine presented Miss Moore with a steamer rug, expressing the love and affection the society holds for her, hoping that it will make the trip pleasant for her as prayers follow her for a safe voyage. delicious fruit punch throuf mf
The Anne Churchill circle served delicious fruit punch throughout the social hour. Place for the meeting of the circles next Monday will be announced Sunday.

MRS. L. E. JAY,

Supt. of Publicity.



REV. J. F. WILSON

6-12-1937

METHODISTS ARE HAVE NEW PASTOR

**Rev. Lough Promoted After
Pleasant Pastorate of Three
Years With Local Church**

As result of assignments made by the recent annual South Georgia Methodist Conference, the Statesboro Methodist Church will have a new pastor. The new man, who will arrive the latter part of next week and will have his first service the Sunday following, is Rev. J. F. Wilson, for the past two year pastor at Wrightsville. He is a man around 37 years of age and has been a member of the conference for the past fifteen years or so.

The retiring pastor, Rev. John S. Lough, was by the same conference authority transferred to Dublin, and will begin his new pastorate at the same time. He will serve his last appointment here next Sunday. He and his family will leave Statesboro on Thursday of next week. Rev. Lough has served the Statesboro church happily for the past three years, and is popular with the entire community as well as with his congregation. It is recognized that both of these moves are in line of promotion from standpoint of finances.

The new pastor was born in Camilla, Ga., and attended public school there; received the A. B. degree in 1935 and the B.D. degree from Candler School of Theology in 1938; joined the South Georgia Conference in 1938, and was made Conference director of youth work; later served the Jeffersonville charge; taught at Wesleyan College in the Bible department for two years; served as chaplain in the United States Navy during the war; after returning to the conference he taught at Emory Junior College, Valdosta for four years. In the South Georgia Conference for the past four years he has headed the board of ministerial training, and at the recent session of the conference was again made chairman of the board.

In 1937 he was married to Miss Henry Kate Gardner, of Camilla, and they have three daughters, Victoria 13, Margaret 10, and Katherine 6.



Polaroid One Minute Photo—Bulloch Times—By Les Witte

STATESBORO METHODIST PARSONAGE DEDICATED—In the above photo, left to right: Bishop Arthur Moore, Rev. J. Frederick Wilson, and Rev. John Lough, who officiated at the dedication of the Statesboro Methodist Church parsonage on Sunday, September 26th. Approximately 500 were in attendance at the morning service and the dedication, which following the sermon by Bishop Moore.

Sept. 30 1954

Methodist To Remove Sanctuary

To make way for a new church building, a contract for removing the present sanctuary from the property of the First Methodist Church was awarded last Thursday evening by the Official Board of the church. A. V. Anderson of Pembroke was the successful bidder. According to information released by Hoke S. Brunson, Chairman of the Official Board, Mr. Anderson will remove the building within ninety days from the date it is turned over to him.

In making this announcement, Mr. Brunson stated that the church will have a series of special services or programs in which members and friends of the church will be interested.

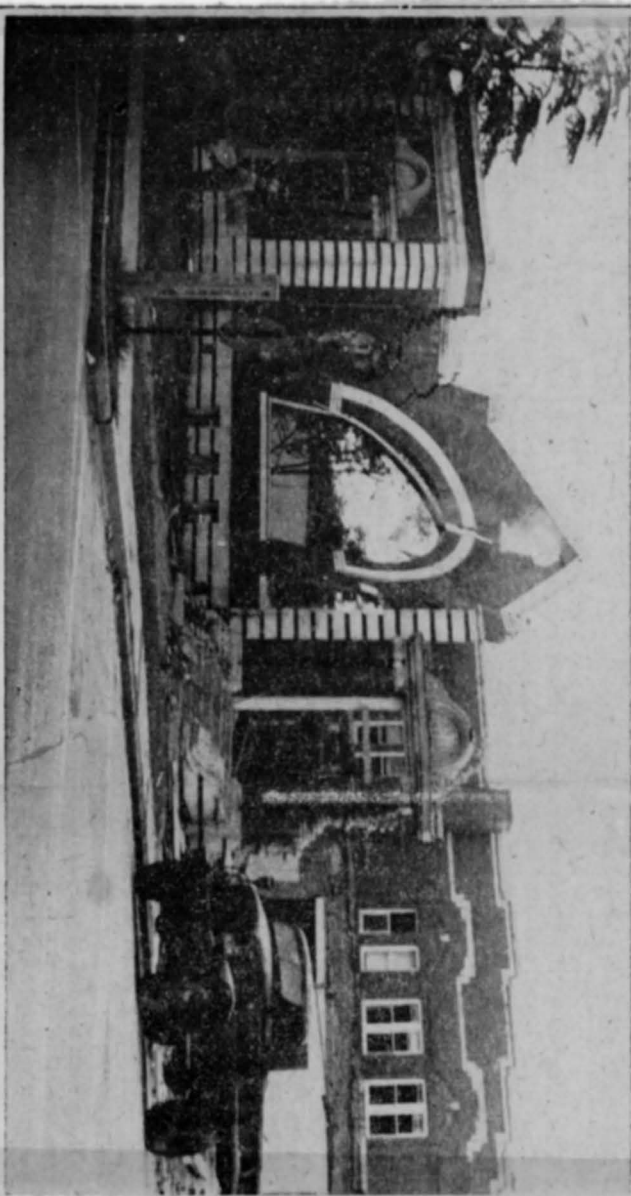
On Tuesday of this week a special ceremony was held at the church when the cornerstone of the present sanctuary was removed and the contents examined and placed in one of the local bank vaults for safekeeping. Officials of the church, members and interested friends were on hand for the occasion. This group included a few of those who were present for the exercise when the cornerstone was laid in 1903.

Elaborating on plans for a special program next Sunday, May 5th, Mr. Brunson stated that, "The church plans to honor and pay tribute to those early Methodist families who were the builders of our church in Statesboro around the turn of the century and others who had part in the early history of Statesboro Methodism." He went on to say that the program next Sunday is not a "Homecoming" as such but that the families, friends and descendants of early Methodist families will have a special interest in attending. All members and friends are urged to watch for additional announcements of the special services as they are released.

A few weeks ago the church reached the \$100,000.00 mark in its fund raising campaign and predicted early completion of plans for the new sanctuary. Actual construction of a new church school annex and renovation of the old Church School Building is under way. The opening of the new annex is scheduled for an early date.

The Rev. Dan Williams is pastor of the church, Lannie F. Simmons is chairman of the Plans and Construction Committee, and J. B. Johnson is chairman of the Finance Committee.

Caught as the east wall of the old First Methodist Church of Statesboro was being pulled down by the wrecking crew, the picture above shows the work in the last stages of the removal of the sanctuary to make way for a new and modern church building to be erected on the same site. Under the supervision of A. V. Anderson of Pembroke, successful bidder for the old building, the site is expected to be entirely cleared in the immediate future. The workman in the picture was unidentified.







SPECIAL PHOTO

On April 30, 1957, members of the First United Methodist Church gathered to remove a cornerstone placed in 1903. According to the Bulloch Herald, they reviewed a time capsule which contained old coins, newspapers and church publications. Within weeks, the building was demolished to make way for a new street.

Church

new light

Church - Shiloh

Members of the First Methodist Church who gathered for the
removing of the cornerstone ^{placed in the} church building ~~in 1903~~
in ~~1903~~ 1903, are:

Seated, front row, Mary ~~Emmie~~ Johnstone, Martha Lamb, Mrs. Cecil Waters,
John Lee, Hoke S. Brunson Jr., and Kenan Kern. ~~Second~~
Second row, Bartow Lamb, Mrs. Dell Anderson, Mrs. ~~Arthur Turner~~,
Mrs. Jesse Johnstone, Mrs. Fannie Mae Smith, ~~Miss Inez~~
Williams, the contents of the cornerstone, Mrs. Virginia Kern,
Mrs. W.C. Huggins, Miss Georgia Watson, Mrs. ~~Watson Wilson~~,
Mrs. Allen R. Lanier, and Mrs. George M. Johnston. Third row,
Lannier F. Simmons, Hoke S. Brunson Sr., Jesse O. Johnston, The Rev.
Dan Williams, pastor of the church, Mrs. Williams, W.S. Hanner, Mrs.
A.A. Flanders, Ernest Brannen, Mrs. M.E. Grimes, Mrs. E.C. Oliver,
Bobby Holland, Herbert Kingery, Dell Anderson, Mrs. Bartow Lamb,
Mrs. Roger Holland Sr., Meg Collins, Lynn Collins, Miss Sadie Lee,
Miss Gussie Lee, Mrs. Maude Edge, Mrs. ~~Reber~~ Brady,
Mrs. Nan Edith Jones, Mrs. Paul Lewis, Jan Joiner, Jim Donaldson,
Fay Foy Smith (in front of Mr. Donaldson) Mrs. Jim Donaldson,
Miss Ribbie Lee, Mrs. ~~William (Willie) Cone~~, William S. Smith,
Rufus Wilson, Burton Mitchell, Walter H. Aldred Jr., S.M. Hendricks,
Shields Kenan, Bill Alderman, J.A. Addison. Third Row: unidentified,
Mrs. James P. Collins, Miss Georgia Hagin, unidentified,
Mrs. Fred T. Lanier Sr., Mrs. George Bird, Mr. George Bird,
Mrs. Julian Hodges, Mrs. Hoke S. Brunson Sr., George M. Johnston,
Julian Hodges, Talmadge Ramsey, Fred Darley, Fourth Row: Mrs.
Homer Simmons Mrs. Esten G. Cromartie, Mrs. Inman F. Foy Sr.,

1958
Shiloh

See also picture

Mother;

mm

First Methodists will begin new church soon

5-15-58
A special service will be held at the First Methodist Church Sunday morning, May 18, at eleven-thirty. This will observe the beginning of another phase in the church's building program, for construction of a new sanctuary for its congregation is scheduled to begin within a few days.

Construction of the sanctuary will be the final phase of a program begun last year when new classrooms were built for the beginner and primary departments and the Sunday school building was renovated and remodeled to include a large fellowship hall.

The sanctuary will be a Gothic structure of Tennessee quartzite and Indiana limestone. Mr. Walter Aldred Jr. is the architect and Benning Construction Company of Atlanta will be the builders.

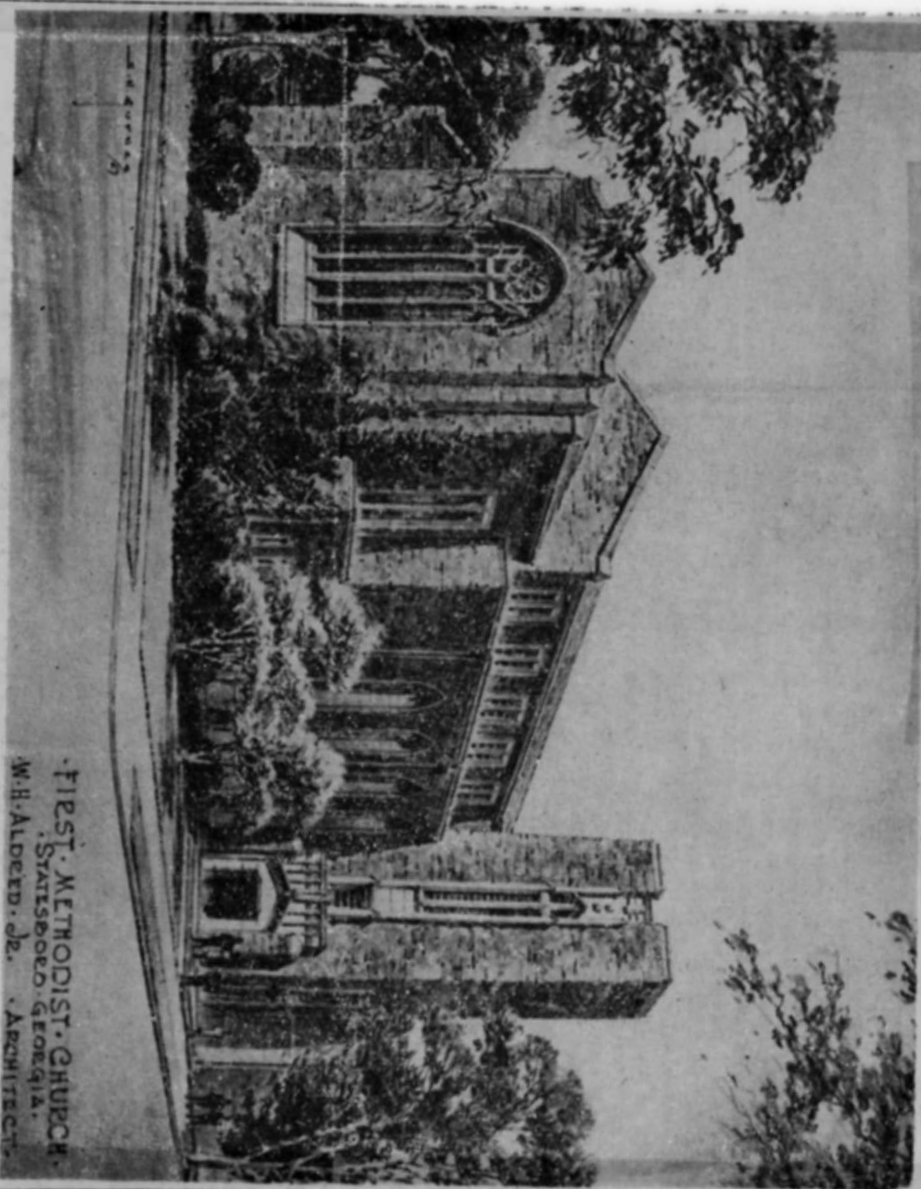
Sunday's service is scheduled to begin in the fellowship hall. Later the congregation will move outside the building where appropriate ceremonies will be conducted at the location upon which the altar of the new structure will stand.

A feature of the program will be to secure signatures for all who attend the service. These signatures will be preserved and placed in the cornerstone at a later date.

All members and friends of First Methodist Church are invited to be present for this historic service.

Pictured above is the artist's drawing of the proposed new First Methodist Church in Statesboro. Designed and drawn by Walter Aldred, architect and member of the local church, the new sanctuary will be built on the same site on South Main Street where the Methodists have held services for more than half a century. The overall building program of the church includes the building of a new Sunday School annex, the renovation of the old Sunday School building, the conversion of the parsonage into Sunday School quarters and the completion of a fellowship hall to be used as a temporary sanctuary during the building phase of the new church. Contracts will be let upon completion of detail plans and specifications with construction to begin at an early date after bids are received.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
STATESBORO, GEORGIA.
W.H. ALDRED, JR., ARCHITECT.





Work Begins on the new First Methodist Church - 1958

Formal opening of new First Methodist Church is Sunday

12-15-59

Opening services will be held in the new building of Statesboro First Methodist Church on Christmas Sunday, December 20. This occasion marks the successful completion of a building program begun during the summer of 1956.

Formal opening ceremonies are to be conducted at the eleven o'clock morning Worship, and there will be an open house from three until five in the afternoon. Evensong at six-thirty will be a special adaptation of John Wesley's Sunday Service. Infants and small children are to be baptized at the eleven o'clock service.

The Church is a form of Gothic architecture built without exterior buttresses with the roof being supported by two rows of interior arches. Exterior walls are of Tennessee quartzite with window frames, arches, doorways, copings and other trim of Indiana limestone. The interior is of limestone, plaster and oak paneling and has exposed ceiling beams of California redwood. The altar is of white Vermont marble.

Every detail of stone and wood and glass has been planned and executed with consideration not only for its individual beauty and use but also for its rightful place in the whole structure. The result is an outstanding example of traditional ecclesiastical architecture.

A prominent feature of the building is its magnificent stained glass windows. These were created by the Henry Hunt Studios according to a plan developed by the pastor. Nave and chancel windows present an outline of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Those in other sections of the building are either of biblical subjects or lovely studies in color and de-

sign except the sacristy window which is of the Wesleys—John, Charles, and Susannah.

Another feature is the richly carved oak furnishings built by the Southern Desk Company. Of special interest are the pulpit carvings of the symbols for the four evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John); the re-

dos carvings of the shields of the twelve apostles and sixteen symbols of Christ's passion; the organ screen carvings of four biblical musical instruments (flute, harp, lyre, and trumpet) and the cover for the baptismal font.

The room on the second floor of the entrance tower has been furnished for us as a place of private prayer and meditation and will be known as The Upper Room.

Walter H. Aldred Jr., a member of the church, was the architect, and Benning Construction Company was the general contractor. Chairman of major committees were: Lannie F. Simmons, Plans and Construction; J. B. Johnson, Finance; J. Clyde Mitchell, Arts and Furnishings. Hoke S. Brunson was chairman of the Official Board July 1956 through June 1959, and George S. Johnston has served as Chairman since July of this year.

Special booklets giving a detailed description of the building and its furnishings have been printed and will be available at the opening services.

First Methodists to place cornerstone of new church

6-25-59

The cornerstone for the new building of First Methodist Church will be laid Sunday, June 28, as a part of the regular Morning Worship beginning at eleven-thirty.

Material to be placed in the stone have been prepared by the Records and History Committee under the direction of Mr. Harry W. Smith, Chairman. Copies of all documents also will be kept in the vault of the new building.

The service will begin in the Fellowship Hall, and the congregation will then move to the site where the cornerstone will be laid for the completion of the ceremonies.

All members and friends of the church are invited to be present for this event which marks another step forward in the building program of this congregation.

11:00 Church - Statesboro

FIRST
METHODIST CHURCH

South Main at Cherry

STATESBORO, GEORGIA



1959

7-7-60

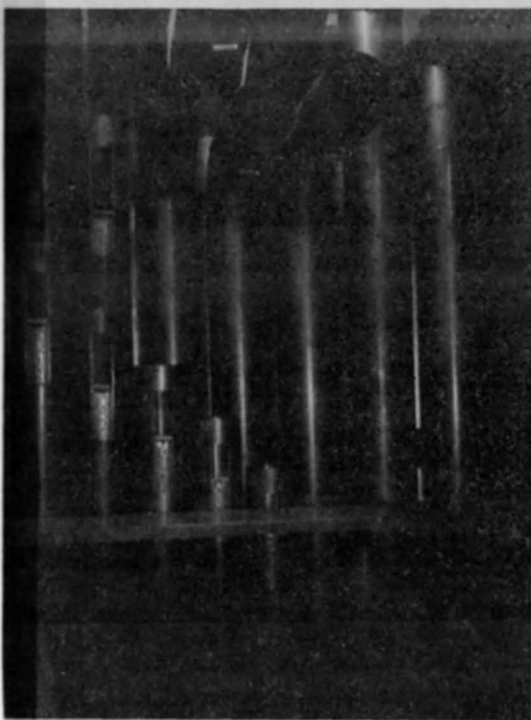
New pipe organ in First Methodist Church



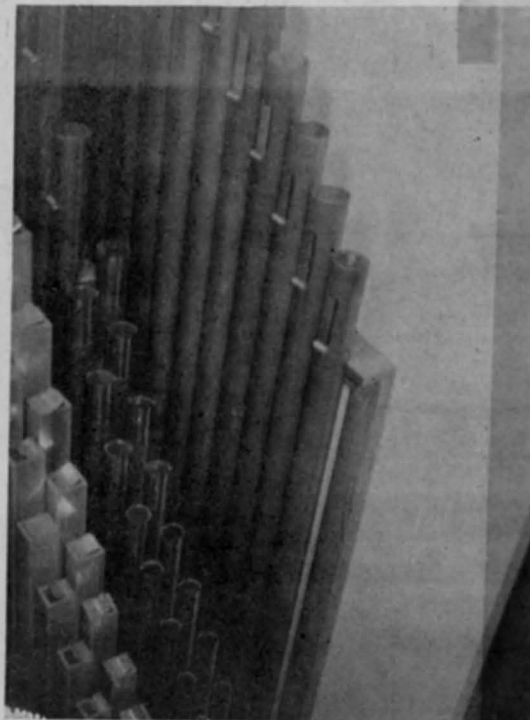
IN MILITARY FASHION they stand straight and at attention — these pipes of the new Casavant organ now being installed in the First Methodist Church. Shown here are some of the pipes in place in the organ loft of the church.



UP AND UP the Herald photographer climbed the ladder at the left and his camera picked out a section of the pipes looking towards the window in the South wing of the church.



HERE ARE THE BIG ONES—The bass pipes, so tall that they had to be bent to fit in the vast organ loft above the chancel of the church.



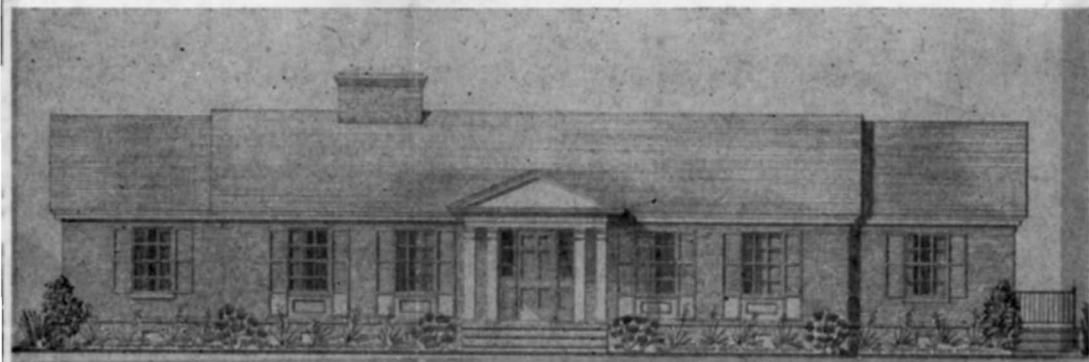
STANDING SILENT and on "ready" is this group of pipes in the organ loft of the First Methodist Church awaiting the signal from the keys under the fingers of the organist at the large console in the chancel of the church.

1960

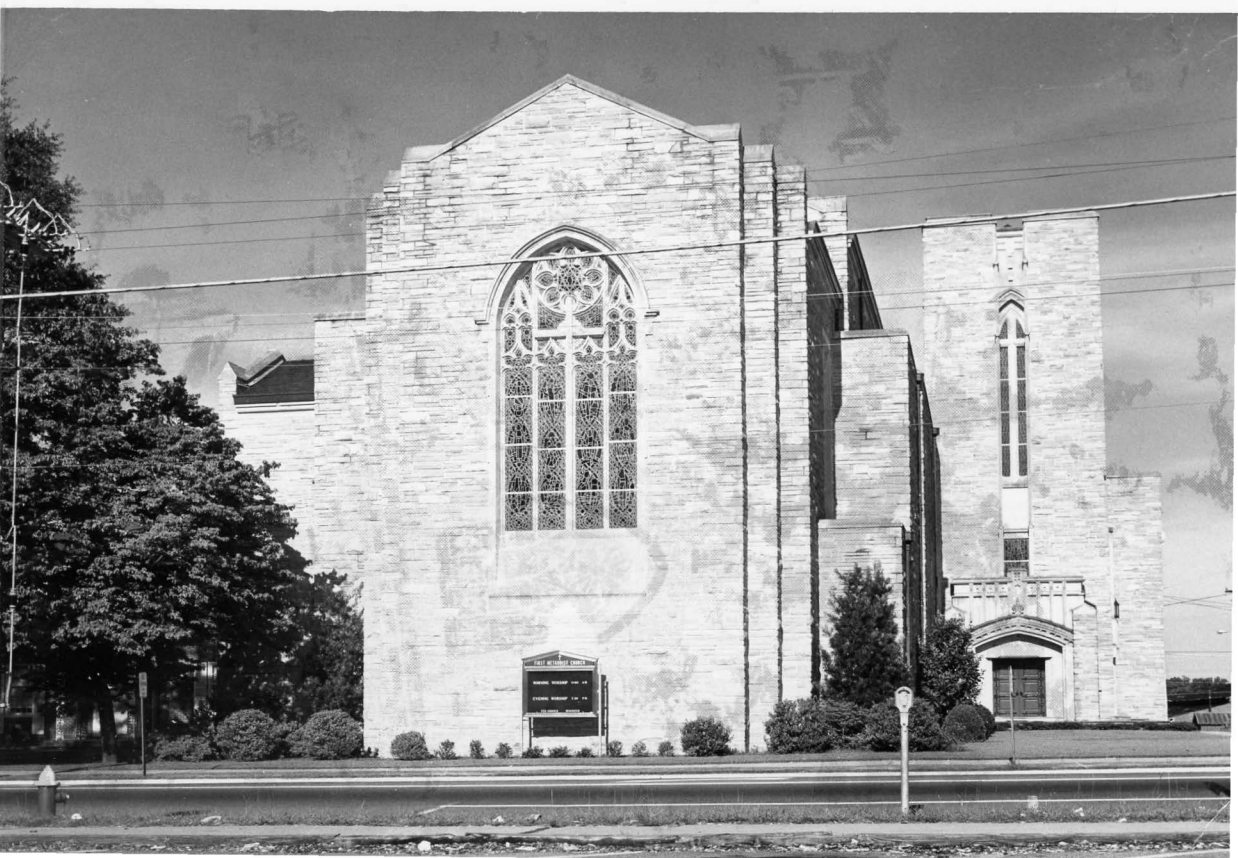
12-22-60



GROUND BREAKING ceremonies on the site of the new parsonage of the Statesboro First Baptist Church. Shown here, left to right are J. Brantley Johnson, the Rev. J. Robert Smith, pastor; Jimmy Gunter, Ed Eckles, the architect; W. G. Cobb Sr. Ernest Cannon, the contractor, and Thad J. Morris. The new parsonage will be located on the corner of Park Avenue and Brannen Street and will face Park Avenue. The architect's drawing of the new home is shown below.



Artist's sketch of new pastorium, corner Park Ave. and Brannen St.



The First Methodist Church - Established 1886

by the Rev. Ted Griner, pastor

... Previous to 1887 there were two pastoral assignments in Bulloch County. These were the Mill Ray Circuit and the Arcola Mission. The Mill Ray Circuit included Union, New Hope, and Eureka. One statement that I read said that in 1887 a Rev. Gilmore was appointed to serve these churches. The South Georgia Conference met in December, 1886. If the foregoing statement is true and Rev. Gilmore was appointed in 1887 it was in December of that year. Therefore, he did not serve the Mill Ray Circuit during 1887. The information goes on to say that Rev. Gilmore lived in a parsonage in Eureka, and it is thought that the Statesboro Church was organized under his pastorate.

There is other evidence that the Statesboro Methodist Church was organized in 1887, and nothing to discount the claim that the Rev. Gilmore organized the church.... but it seems obvious that Rev. Gilmore served the Mill Ray Circuit during 1887. Either he was actually appointed in December, 1886, or was appointed after the session of the Annual Conference, but in time to organize the church during the year....

...Worship meetings by Methodists may have been conducted in Statesboro in late 1886, but the group evidently did not have status as a congregation with a pastor until 1887. These were the days of Circuit Riders, rapid development, and many changes....

The original membership records of the Statesboro Methodist Church were not preserved, but from reliable sources it is understood and agreed that in the organization of the church there were nine charter members. They were: Mr. and Mrs. W.N. Hall, Mrs. W.T. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. B.E. Turner, Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Smith, Mrs. Anna Potter and Miss Elizabeth (or Alice) Skinner...

The congregation held Worship Services in the Court House until the first Church Building was erected.

In December 1887 a deed was secured for the property on which the church now stands. Earliest information about the property places it in the possession of a Wise family. The property was bought from the Wise family by William H. Blitch....

Mr. Blitch conveyed the property to the Trustees of the newly organized Statesboro Methodist Church in 1887. Some records say he gave the land and others say that a price of \$50.00 was paid for it...

The trustees were B.E. Turner, W.N. Hall, George S. Blackburn, John A. Smith and Dr. M.M. Holland. Dr. Holland and Mr. Blackburn are not named as Charter members which indicates that they joined the church soon after it was organized....

The first house of worship was built in 1888. It was a plain wooden structure with a vestibule and a steeple overhead with a bell in it. It was located on the rear of the lot about where Walnut Street crosses. There was a cemetery at the North side of the church. The cemetery was not, however, a burying spot for members of the church as one might suspect but was a Wise family burying ground and predated the church by some years. It has long since disappeared and I was able to discover nothing of its having been moved....



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH



South Main At Cherry
STATESBORO, GEORGIA

1978

First Methodist

Bulloch County
Statesboro
Churches - County

New sanctuary culminated church 'dream'

The dedication of the present sanctuary of First United Methodist Church of Statesboro was held on November 3, 1974, marking the culmination of a dream begun by Statesboro Methodists in the mid-1950s during the pastorate of the Rev. J. Frederick Wilson. The church that it replaced had been built in 1902 and through the years had become inadequate. After investigating the possibility of a major remodeling program, it was decided in 1955 that construction of a new building would best serve the anticipated growth of the church.

The following year, under the leadership of its newly assigned pastor, the Rev. Dan Williams, and the late Hoke S. Brunson, Sr., chairman of the Official Board, the Quarterly Conference of June 28, 1956 established three major committees: Plans and Construction with the late Lannie F. Simmons as chairman; Building Finance with the late J. B. Johnson as chairman; and Arts and Furnishings with the late J. Clyde Mitchell as chairman. Walter H. Aldred, Jr., a member of the congregation, was selected as architect. Preliminary plans presented to the congregation on September 27, 1956 were approved.

Final services were held in the old church on May 12, 1957 and a contract was let to raze the building. Worship services during construction were held in the Fellowship Hall. Benning Construction Co. of Atlanta was the successful bidder for the construction and a contract was signed following approval by the congregation on April 17, 1958 and by the Quarterly Conference on April 24, 1958. Ground was broken on May 18, 1958 and excavation for the foundation commenced immediately.

The cornerstone was laid in formal ceremonies during the morn-

ing worship service on Sunday, June 28, 1959. Finally, on Sunday, December 20, 1959, after forty months of work and preparation, this lovely church - built at a cost of approximately \$500,000 including furnishings - was presented in formal ceremonies and "declared to be open for the worship of God and the service of men."

The church is a form of Gothic architecture built without exterior buttresses with the roof being supported by two rows of interior arches. The 24-inch exterior walls are of solid brick and Tennessee quartzite, with window frames, arches and doorways, coping and other trim, of Indiana limestone. The interior is of limestone, plaster and oak paneling and has exposed ceiling beams of California redwood. The beauty of the church is further enhanced by the richly carved oak furnishings built by the Southern Desk Co. of Hickory, North Carolina.

The building is oriented on the lot so that the Altar, always at the liturgical east, is to the geographical east as well. The main body of the church is arranged in the traditional three-part plan: the narthex, nave and chancel. The narthex is that part of the building that serves as a vestibule for the main entrance, the nave refers to the main body of the church in which the worshippers are seated and the chancel is that part of the church from the chancel rail to the east wall which historically separated the priests from the laity and is represented by the chancel arch.

The wide center aisle of the nave extends through the chancel to the Altar. It is a symbol of "The Way of Life" with the unobstructed approach to the Altar representing a free and open approach to God.

The chancel is divided into two
See SANCTUARY.....Page 4.

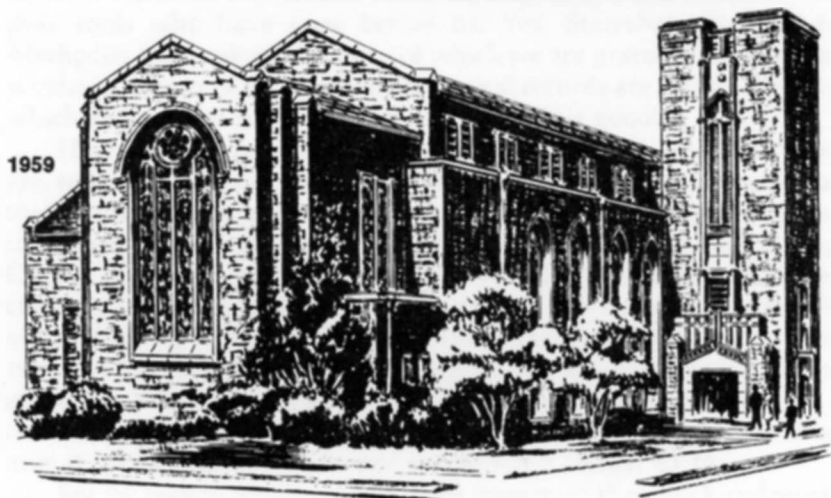
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1888



1903



1959

Centennial Celebration
First United Methodist Church
Statesboro, Georgia
October 24 - 25, 1987





Board of Stewards

During the years, 1907-1909, First United Methodist Church of Statesboro was served by the Board of Stewards shown in this photograph taken during that period. Appearing seated (l-r) are Sam Williams, J.E.

McCroan, the Rev. Paul W. Ellis, pastor, Greene S. Johnston, W.C. Parker, and L.G. Lucas. Standing (l-r) are Charlie Griner, Fred T. Lanier, Hinton Booth, Charles E. Cone, L.L. Glisson, and W.T. Hughes. The photo was provided courtesy of Mrs W.H. Amason.

welcome to Station 2 of the Walk-About on Statesboro First United Methodist Church property.

This corner of South Main and Cherry Street was a part of the 1898 purchase required to provide a parsonage for the station church. After the parsonage was built, the Trustees bargained with Dr. M. M. Holland, owner of much of the property north of the church, to move the white frame church forward to South Main from where it was built - about where our fellowship hall now is. Dr. Holland, a Trustee himself, was to place the church in first class condition.

The church was rapidly growing - more than 200 members under the 1896-97 pastorate of J. D. Anthony, "Bishop of the Wiregrass". In March 1902, almost 300 members and Rev. Whitley Langston voted to build the red-brick church on this corner lot. The sanctuary with gallery would seat 575. The Sunday School plant consisted of a large central room surrounded by eight class rooms. There was a pastor's study and a library. That library under the direction of the Sunday School Superintendent Hinton Booth became the first lending library for the citizens of Statesboro.

The frame white church was sold. The congregation met in the Masonic Hall, the neighbor across the street, from October 1902 until July 26, 1903. The cornerstone was laid on Thanksgiving afternoon 1902. At this first worship service, July 26, 1903, the new facility was complete and debt-free. On a single evening, the Official Board had raised \$3000 of the projected need of \$7,000. The women had various fund raisers, such as oyster stew suppers and basket lunches. There was a cost overrun by the contractors A. J. Franklin and Lee Roy Blackburn of \$500 on the \$6,000 contract. This addition was readily paid by the church to the contractors. Total cost, including furnishings, was \$9,000.

On November 1, 1903, Dr. M. M. Holland, Chairman of the Building Committee, presented this building for dedication. "One of the largest congregations ever assembled in the town was present." Dr. W. C. Lovett, editor of the WESLEYAN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, officiated at the dedication. He had been present for the dedication of the white frame church. He acclaimed this facility as "the finest church building between Savannah and Macon".

Here it served until June 1957 when it was demolished so that the Gothic sanctuary might be built.



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

STATESBORO, GEORGIA

W. H. ALDRED, JR.

ARCHITECT

Henry Gottfried installs new pipe organ at First Methodist

When Mrs. Eva Holland, organist for the First Methodist Church of Statesboro, sits at the new Casavant Organ now being installed in the church, she can play it with the assurance that its voices will be true and lovely.

This assurance is created by the master craftsmanship of Mr. Henry A. Gottfried of Jacksonville who expects to complete the organ installation in about

two weeks.

Mr. Gottfried has been working in the organ loft for several weeks—climbing tiny ladders, crawling in confined sections, engrossed with the business of assembling the more than 1700 pipes from the tiny pencil-sized ones to the mammoth bass pipes which had to be bent to fit in the vast organ chamber. He depends upon his long experience and vast knowledge of the

organ to make sure that when Mrs. Holland pulls out the stop for the open diapason voice and presses the keys on the great organ's keyboard, it'll sound like the open diapason—and not like the hohl flute, gemshorn, flute d'amour or three other voices. And that's something—for you see, a set of sixty-eight pipes must be rightly tuned for diapason.

Before Mr. Gottfried releases

the organ to the First Church he will have adjusted every pipe to its perfect pitch and the organ perfectly tuned.

His skill in organ maintenance also must be applied to achieve the properly tuned twelve voices available on the swell organ, the top keyboard; the seven voices — on the choir organ, lower keyboard; and the two voices achieved by foot pressure on the pedal organ.

Also to be inspected for proper functioning are the numerous pistons on the instrument which will permit Mrs. Holland or other organist, to make quick changes from voice to voice without having to reach for the numerous stop knobs on both sides of the massive keyboard.

Before Mrs. Holland can begin a program she must set the numbered pistons for certain voices. During a selection she has at her immediate command the voice stops she pre-selected merely by pressing the proper piston button beneath each of the three keyboards.

Pressing another button, called "release piston," permits her to cancel any or all stops she had set previously.

A row of couplers in the keyboard area permits the organist to connect the pedal and three manual keyboards meely by pressing buttons, supercouplers and subcouplers are used to increase the range of the organ either an octave lower or higher.

The organ was shipped here in huge vans and stored in the church's social hall. Gottfried said that the huge instrument was taken piece by piece, pipe by pipe through the doors, through the sanctuary up the ladder to a platform through a narrow opening into the organ loft where they were assembled.

Mr. Gottfried, who operates his own organ maintenance company in Jacksonville, Fla., started in his profession by working for the organ building company founded by his father, Anton Gottfried, in 1890, two years after coming to the U. S. from Germany.

He said that his father was regarded as "the greatest authority on organ tone in the World" when he sold his company in 1950. The elder Gottfried went to Daytona Beach on his retirement and died there in 1954 at the age of 93.

HOUSE OF CASAVANT

The founder of the House of Casavant was Joseph Casavant, who in 1837 built his first pipe organ. His two sons, Claver and Samuel, organized the firm which, since 1879 has been known as Casavant Feareres Limited, of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada. During more than a century Casavant organs have been installed in all parts of the United States, Canada and in South America, British West Indies, South Africa, France and Japan, so that today the number would be well over 2,400 pipe organs.

Every organ whether large or small, is erected in its entirety in the factory and tested thoroughly in all details before shipping.

The pipe organ is composed of thousand of parts made from various materials such as wood, tin, lead, and zinc for the pipes; white pine from California, poplar from Tennessee, ponderosa white pine from the Pacific Northwest, leather from Australia and England for the actions; iron, steel, copper, brass and felt for accessory parts; walnut, maple oak, mahogany, ebony and ivory in the console, and electric motor blowers from the United States.

All in all it's a marvelous instrument.





9 95070



Methodist Church of Statesboro, Ga.



WORK TO COMMENCE ON SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNEX

The actual breaking of dirt for the new Sunday school annex for the Methodist church was accomplished Monday of this week, following a decision reached by the building committee Sunday to begin operations without further delay.

The building committee is composed of F. T. Lanier, chairman; J. J. Kenfroë, treasurer; E. C. Oliver, E. L. Smith, Hinton Booth, and J. E. McCroan. G. S. Johnston. Messrs. Oliver and Booth comprise a special committee who will supervise the details of the work. L. R. Blackburn, well known brick worker, has been employed to superintend the job, which will be done by day labor under his direction.

Estimates as to the cost of the proposed improvements range from the neighborhood of \$20,000 to as high as \$29,000. The first figure is that of the architects who drew the plans and the last figure is the lone actual bid submitted by a Savannah contractor upon recent invitation for bids. The committee believe the work can be put through at a figure somewhere between the two amounts named—they hope nearer the lower figure.

For the past three or four years the Sunday school facilities have included a number of tents on the lawn for use by the smaller classes. The ravages of time and the weather have put the tents out of commission, therefore the present has been deemed an opportune time to begin work, with the hope of having the annex ready for use early in the coming summer.





THE REV. LIVINGSTON

12/15/60
Presbyterians

**here to get
new pastor**

Announcement is made here this week that the Rev. John C. Livingston, a native of St. Pauls, North Carolina, has been named as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Statesboro. Rev. Livingston will begin his service here after the first of the year.

Rev. Livingston is a 1953 graduate of Davidson College and of Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, 1956. He has served as the pastor of the Burnt Presbyterian Church and Sunnyside Presbyterian Church, Winchester, Virginia.

At present his activities include chairmanship of the Youth Work in Winchester Presbytery; chairmanship of Home Missions in Winchester Presbytery; membership on the board of trustees of the Winchester Presbytery; secretary-treasurer of the Frederick County Ministerial Association and finance chairmanship of the Frederick County Council of Churches.

He is married to the former Miss Elsie Howard of St. Pauls, N. C. They have two children, Paula, age 6 and Howard, age 4.

Last summer Rev. Livingston served as exchange minister to the Westview Presbyterian Church, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.



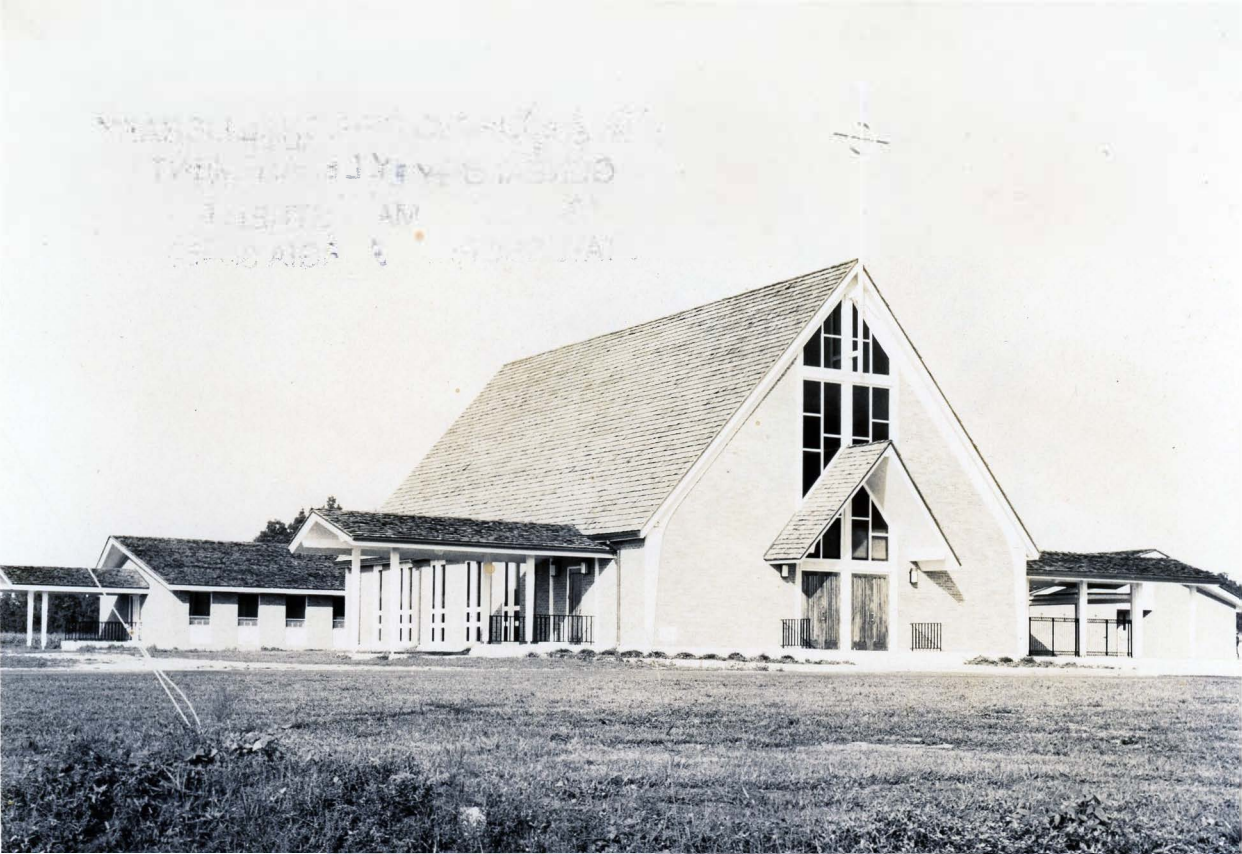


This is the architect's drawing of the new sanctuary and educational facilities of the Statesboro First Presbyterian Church.

Groundbreaking ceremonies will be held Sunday, May 1, at 3 p.m. on the site located on Georgia Highway 67 east of Georgia Southern College.

*Presbyterians will begin
new Church on May 1*

B. Herald 4/21/66





Tenth Anniversary Special Edition

ON SUNDAY, JULY 24, 1977, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STATESBORO CELEBRATED THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW CHURCH BUILDINGS DURING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE. SINCE SOME MEMBERS WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND, AND SINCE WE HAVE RECEIVED REQUESTS FOR VARIOUS PARTS OF THE PROGRAM TO BE REPRODUCED, WE HEREBY PRESENT, AS NEARLY AS POSSIBLE, THE ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY MR. DON MCDUGALD AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PROGRAM WILL BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST.

PASTOR'S INTRODUCTION

Even a quick glance at the list of names of people in the bulletin will let you know that lots of people have come and gone and remain on the roll in the ten years since these buildings have been erected. You will see there a list of those who were on the roll when the building program was started, and those who have left us either by moving or by death. You will also note that I came with the buildings. For that reason I can identify with those of you in the pews who are also "new-comers" to this church family.

Our business today is to look back and see what happened ten years ago and more in the past that has brought us to this time and place. Then we will hear a message of challenge calling us to look out to the future and carry on the heritage that has been given us. And that, I think, is a good Biblical injunction.

The size of our church roll is such that we can maintain a kind of "family feeling." We are not too large but that we can foster a kind of "family" relationship with one another. Now, to become a member of a family, you must enter in one or another way; by birth or by adoption. And here too are some good Biblical ideas. The Bible writers pictured the Church of God's people in both the Old Testament and the New. Either you were born into God's family, as were the Jews; or you were adopted into His family, as were we Gentiles.

To be a good member of a family is to know something of your story and history. Time and time again we read in the Bible of the admonition to tell the story of God's salvation to each generation. The story-history of the family is to be passed on. So, today we are to hear something of our story-history in order to learn where this family came from, who we are today, and where we are going tomorrow. We need to do this so that we might all be in the same stream bed headed for the same goal.

For these reasons we have asked several people to tell us where this church came from, what was done to plan these facilities we now are using and why they are built as they are. We have called them "Voices of the Past". Then, at the very close we will hear a "Voice of the Future" challenging us to move out to new roads of adventure together.



First
Presbyterian
Church

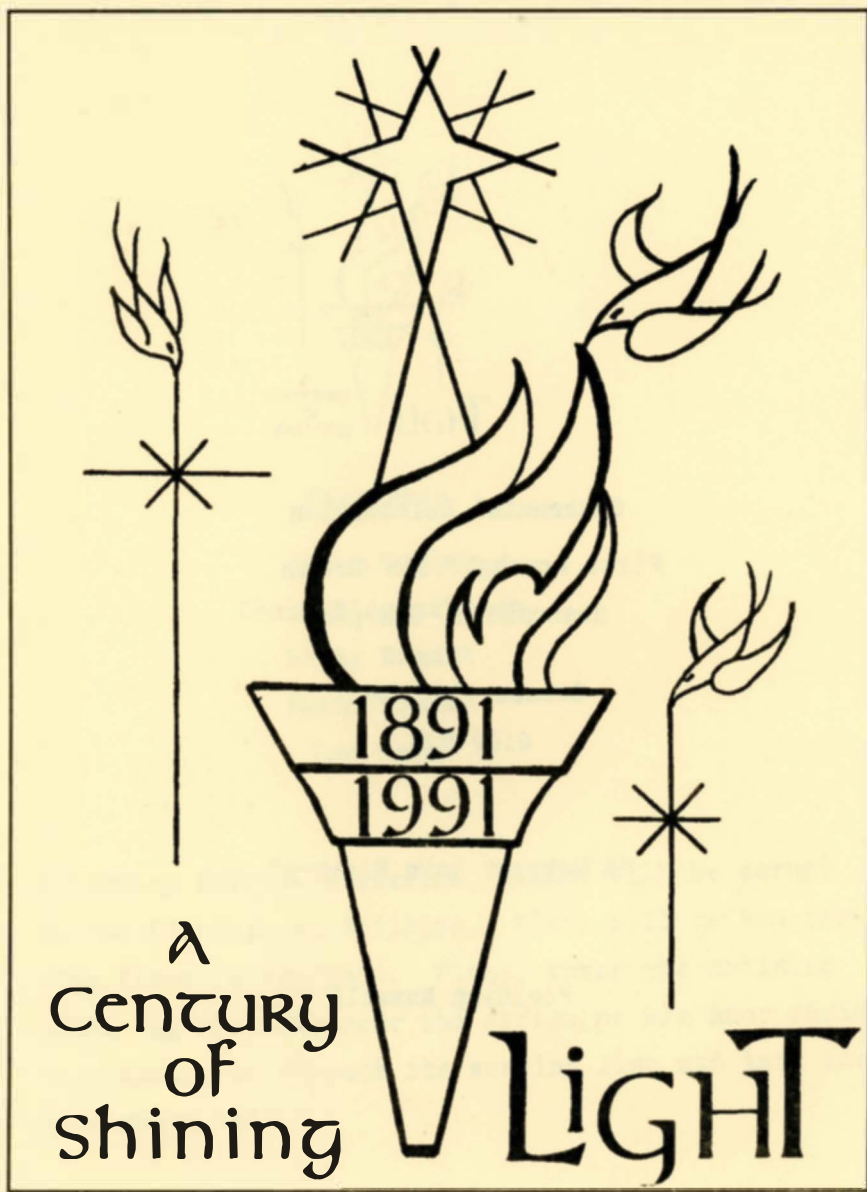
Statesboro, Georgia

Larry C. Mitchell, Pastor

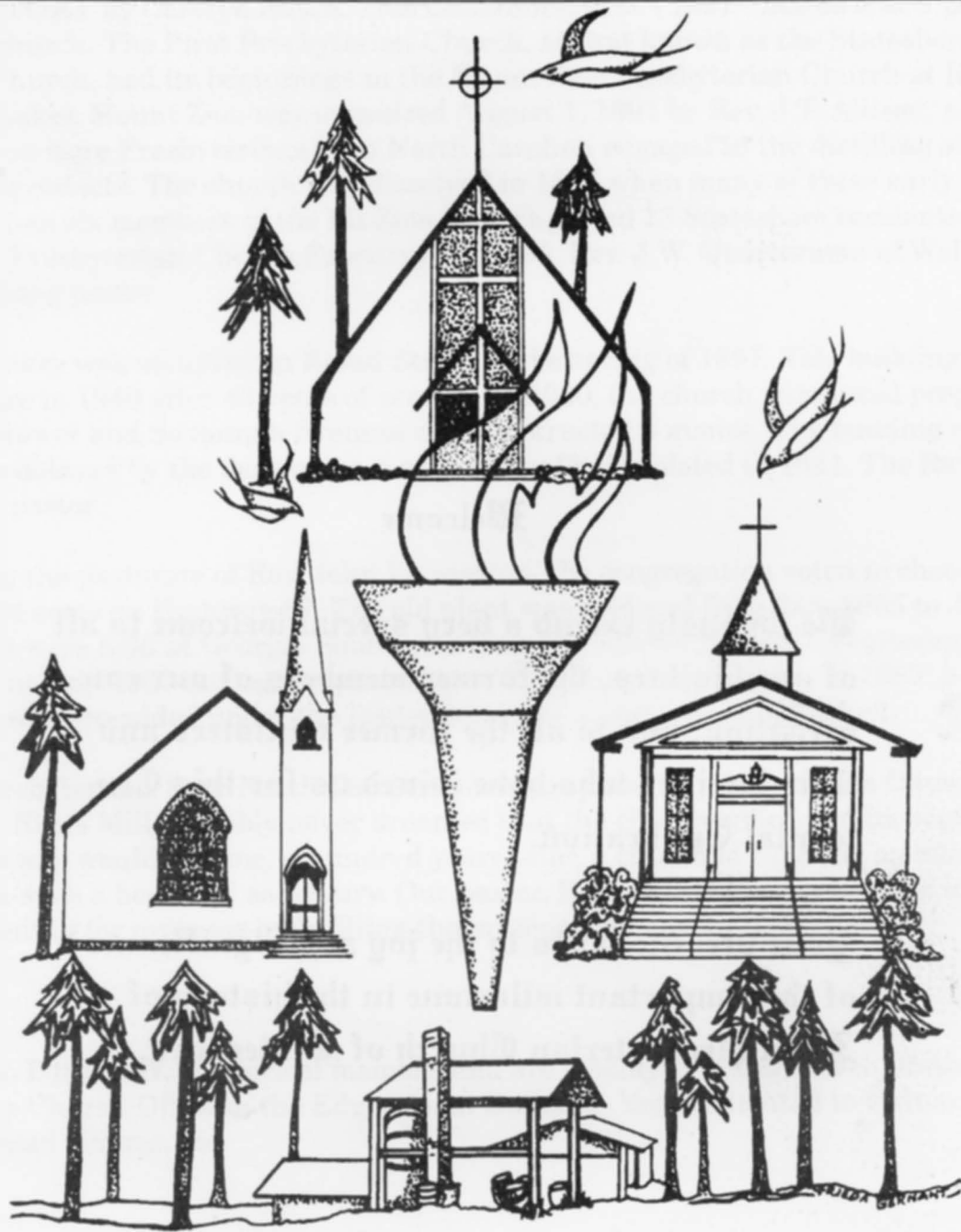


A Light Unto Our Path
Since 1891

The Congregation
of
Statesboro First Presbyterian Church
in gratitude and praise to Almighty God
for
one hundred years of worship and service
requests your prayers and your presence
at our
Centennial Celebration
October 19, 20, 1991



First Presbyterian Church
Statesboro, Georgia



1891 • A CENTURY OF SHINING LIGHT • 1991

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • STATESBORO, GEORGIA

DR. JOHN W. BRESSLER, PASTOR
OCTOBER 19 - 20, 1991

The Kirkin' O' the Tartans



SPECIAL PHOTO

Bill Davidson joined Dr. John Bressler in playing the traditional Scottish bagpipes at the ceremony.

The official blessing

Beadle: These Tartans represent the families of God. They are not local nor are they separate. But they are universal and uniting. Families of God, brought here by the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. Look to the Cross. Whom do we serve?

People: There is no other than the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our God is the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. There is no other.

Beadle: He is holy. He is one. Whom do we serve?

People: We serve the Lord God. On this day, we rededicate ourselves and our families to God.

Beadle: So be it. Amen.



SPECIAL PHOTO

Pastor John Bressler, left, Don McDougald and Bill Davidson led the procession at the Kirkin' O' the Tartans at the Statesboro First Presbyterian Church. The Kirkin' was the opening ceremony at a recent Sunday morning worship service.

It is an ancient ritual; its origins lost in antiquity — "The Kirkin' O' the Tartans" — recently celebrated for the first time in Statesboro First Presbyterian Kirk, ah, Church.

Those with a bit of Scottish blood, real or imagined, thrilled to the sight and sound of the opening ceremony at morning worship. The bagpipes were pumped as the key was found and the procession stepped off lively to "Scotland the Brave."

Leading the procession was the Beadle, a high official in the Church of Scotland, an assistant in American Presbyterian Churches. Don McDougald came from Montreat, N.C. to serve as Beadle, his duty to carry the huge Bible and place it on the pulpit.

Then came Dr. John Bressler and Lt. Cmdr. Bill Davidson, playing the haunting pipes, paced by Charles Davis from Trinity Presbyterian who marked the cadence with light drum.

Past Commander George Murdock and the official color guard of the Scottish American Military Society of Veterans (SAMS Post 7 of Savannah) brought in the flags.

In came the Session, the elected ruling body of the Kirk, followed by the choir which soon disappeared into the choir loft in the rear of the Kirk.

There was the Scots Confession which was no trouble for visiting Baptists to repeat. The organ offertory by organist Pam Radford was listed as a "Trumpet Tune" but it was really "Danny Boy" to visiting Irish and Scots Irish.

Pastor John Bressler deftly related present day family reunions to the development of second generation Israelites ready to take the Promised Land under Joshua, Moses' successor. Joshua challenged the people, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." The Blessing of the Tartans, led by the Beadle, carries the same challenge.

"Amazing Grace," America's hymn, was announced. Add the heart wrenching bagpipes and it became difficult to maintain composure long enough to sing all verses.

The Blessing of the Tartans was led by the Beadle with response by the people. It is a rededication of families, many represented by the 22 mounted Tartans brought from Montreat. Nearly everyone present wore a tie or sash or swatch of plaid.

Suddenly it was over and the pipes were leading the recession to the tune of "The Flower of Scotland," and the exhilarating worship was brought to a close.

— Dr. Kemp Mabry
Special to the Herald



SPECIAL PHOTO

Don McDougald and Pastor John Bressler stand in front of a number of tartans. Each one stands for a particular Scottish clan.



SPECIAL PHOTO

Former Statesboro resident Don McDougald travelled from North Carolina to serve as beadle.







First Presbyterian Church

P.O. Box 7525-Fair Road
Statesboro, Georgia 30458

Invitation to
Experience Mission







